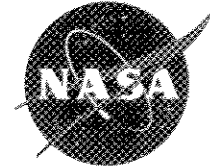


National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 5, 2010

General Law Practice Group

Reply to Attn of:

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Personnel at the Council on Competitiveness Dinner for the Honorable Koji Omi on January 6, 2010

On January 6, 2010, the Council on Competitiveness is sponsoring a dinner hosted by Ambassador Michael B. Smith and Mrs. Deborah Wince-Smith, the President of the Council, at their McLean, Virginia home. The Council on Competitiveness is an American non-profit 501(c) (3) organization based in Washington, D.C. that works to facilitate discussion on economic challenges among business, labor, academic, and government leaders. The purpose of the dinner is to honor the Honorable Koji Omi, the Founder and Chairman of the Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum. The STS Forum is a high level annual meeting of international policy makers, press, academicians, and others which is focused on annual topics of international importance, including space exploration.

Over 100 senior leaders from academia, industry, and the U.S. government (NASA, DOE, DARPA, and the State Department) have been invited, and approximately 40 – 50 plan to attend the dinner. The estimated cost of the dinner is around \$35.00 per person. I find that this dinner meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the dinner because it will further Agency programs or operations. NASA representatives will be able to discuss NASA's mission and programs in space exploration and science and technology with other leaders in academia, industry, and government. Accordingly, NASA employees, including those who are non-career positions in which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, whose duties do not substantially affect the Council on Competitiveness, or a majority of its members, may accept an invitation for free attendance to the dinner for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Adam F. Greenstone